

Indiana Department of Correction Juvenile Facility Awarded ACA Accreditation

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Commissioner, J. David Donahue

Indianapolis, Indiana - (January 19, 2007) - Commissioner J. David Donahue announced today that the South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility scored a perfect 100 percent on the mandatory standards established by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The facility scored 99.5 percent on non-mandatory standards. The ACA auditors recommended South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility for re-accreditation.

"I want to congratulate Superintendent Dawn Buss on her leadership and facility employees for this great accomplishment," said Commissioner J. David Donahue. "The re-accreditation of the South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility through the American Correctional Association is a formal recognition for the day-to-day commitment of correctional employees at the facility."

"Congratulations to everyone. The audit team could not say enough about the staff that work here, programs at the facility and the overall environment" said Facility Superintendent Dawn Buss.

In order to pass the ACA audit, a correctional facility must comply with 100 percent of 33 mandatory standards and 90 percent of 448 non-mandatory standards. ACA's standards reflect the current national policies and procedures with regard to the care, custody and control of adult offenders.

Chief Auditor of the Accreditations Committee Matt Novak and members, Doris Tribble, and Jerry Gooldin were complimentary of the South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility employees, operations and program delivery model in the areas of mental health, education and staff training.

Novak commented, "Students here are orderly, the facility is impeccably clean and the treatment programs are a great model for others to follow. I really like that SBJF is open to the community and committed to fostering positive relationships."

Ms. Tribble and Gooldin were impressed with security details and overall delivery of services at the facility. Tribble stated, "I have never seen chemical, tool and key systems as organized as SBJF's. The accountability across the board is very high and offenders always are in line during the very organized movements."

Facility Superintendent Buss added, "We are very proud of the re-accreditation. SBJ staff is committed to making sure that the needs of the offenders are met and are in a safe and secure environment."

The South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility employs 82 total staff and houses over 102 offenders.

"Congratulations to the South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility employees for demanding excellence and delivering it to the youth of Indiana. I look forward to making the official announcement at the ACA summer conference," added Donahue.

About ACA

The Standards and Accreditation Department of the American Correctional Association (ACA) serves a dual mission of providing services for ACA and the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections (CAC). These services include the development and promulgation of new standards, revision of existing standards, coordination of the accreditation process for all correctional components of the criminal justice system, semi-annual accreditation hearings, technical assistance to correctional agencies, and training for consultants who are involved in the accreditation process.

About the Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.